



NOAA FY 2000 Budget Request Fact Sheet

YEAR OF THE OCEAN INITIATIVE



Magnuson Stevens Act Implementation

NOAA requests an increase of \$2.6 million in FY 2000 to implement provisions of the 1996 reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and continue the aggressive commitment to end overfishing and sustain both marine resources and the coastal communities that rely on them. These funds will help implement 39 Fishery Management Plans designed to end overfishing, rebuild stocks and protect essential fish habitat (EFH). It will also improve the collection and analysis of the socio-economic effects of regulations on the fishing industry and coastal communities. NOAA's Magnuson-Stevens Act implementation request supports a key pledge made by the President at the National Ocean Conference in 1998, and complements the other Year of the Ocean initiatives seeking to explore, protect and restore America's vital ocean resources.

of overfishing. The benefits that would accrue under sustainable harvesting practices go unrealized. The Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act empowers NOAA to end overfishing by ensuring that commercial and recreational fishing practices do not diminish the nation's fish populations beyond what is sustainable on a continuing basis. Eight regional Fishery Management Councils are essential partners of the National Marine Fisheries Service in this endeavor. The Councils recently reassessed each of the 39 Fishery Management Plans under their jurisdiction for compliance with the new overfishing prohibitions. Many Councils have already worked with the National Marine Fisheries Service on new amendments. The requested funds will allow implementation of these environmentally important management efforts.

Sustaining Fishing Communities

Throughout the decades, the boom and bust cycle of fishing practices has lead to a slow decline in the economies of coastal communities which rely on fishing. NOAA has long recognized the need to ensure sustainable fishing practices to support these communities. As the nation transitions toward sustainable fishing practices, the short-term negative economic effects to these communities cannot be avoided, and must be addressed by minimizing the economic effects of management actions and by affording new economic opportunities. NOAA is requesting additional implementation funds for FY 2000 to enhance its ability to collect and analyze socio-economic data, improve the predictability of impacts resulting from management actions, and better target any relief efforts to those most affected.

Protecting Essential Fish Habitat

Under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, preserving Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) is now recognized as a critical component for continued economic prosperity of the commercial and recreational fishing industries. Under NOAA's FY2000 EFH initiative, the National Marine Fisheries Service will work with commercial and recreational fishing interests, federal agencies, the states and others to develop and implement safeguards that protect EFH, reduce destruction of EFH by fishing gear, and enhance EFH to increase fish abundance. Building on the EFH designation work completed in FY98 and FY99, this initiative will target protection of existing habitat. In addition, NOAA will enhance and restore EFH and work with the fishing industry to evaluate the impacts of fishing gear and activities on EFH.

For Further Information Contact:
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NOAA Budget	FY 2000 Change \$M
National Ocean Service (OR&F)	
Navigation Services (Ports for the 21st Century)	\$5.2
Ocean Resources Conservation & Assessment (Exploring the Last Frontier) (Coral Reef Protection)	\$1.0 \$2.0
National Marine Fisheries Service (OR&F)	
Conservation and Management Operations (Magnuson-Stevens Act) (Observers)	\$2.6 \$2.0
Information Collection and Analysis (Fisheries Oceanography) (Aquaculture)	\$1.6 \$1.0
Oceanic & Atmospheric Research (OR&F)	
Climate and Air Quality Research (Ocean Climate Variability)	\$4.0
Oceans and Great Lakes (Aquaculture) (Fisheries Oceanography) (Ocean Observatories)	\$3.6 \$0.4 \$3.1
Procurement, Acquisition, & Construction Account (Fisheries Research Vessels)	\$51.6
NOAA Year of the Ocean Initiative -- Total	\$78.1

Ending Overfishing

Billions of dollars in economic growth, jobs and countless recreational fishing opportunities are lost each year as a result